

AFSCME-Endorsed Candidates Win Primary Elections

AFSCME-endorsed candidates saw big success in primary races in Ramsey County and Duluth last week. On Tuesday, August 13, every AFSCME endorsed candidate on a primary ballot made it through to the general election in the fall.

At the top of the ballot was Duluth Mayor Emily Larson, who earned more than enough votes to move to the general election. Endorsed candidates for Duluth City Council At Large Arik Forsman and Noah Hobbs also earned enough votes to move forward.

A victory for the District 3 seat on the Duluth City Council was especially sweet, as union sister Theresa O'Halloran-Johnson advanced to the general election.

In Ramsey County District 1, AFSCME-endorsed Nicole Joy Frethem will take on Republican Randy Jessup in the fall. AFSCME members will remember Jessup as the anti-union House member who was defeated by DFL Rep. Kelly Moller in 2018.

In each of these races, AFSCME members knocked doors, made phone calls, and provided the ground game to propel our endorsed candidates to victory. But that work is far from over – with just 77 days between now and the 2019 general election, we need volunteers in all our endorsed races to make sure that leaders who support labor and public employees win in November. Follow AFSCME Council 5 on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram at @AFSCMEMN5 for volunteer opportunities in your area.

Finally, Election Day 2019 is Tuesday, November 5 – mark your calendars, and get ready to vote for the AFSCME-endorsed candidate in your area!

Volunteers Needed for UnRestrict MN Campaign

Want to get involved in the #UnRestrictMN campaign? We've got volunteer opportunities across the state!

AFSCME Council 5 is a proud supporter of #UnRestrictMN, the public education campaign to spread the word about anti-choice laws that restrict Minnesotans' access to the full range of reproductive care.

Join your AFSCME siblings for powerful conversations about freedom, health care, and choice at any of the following community events:

- **Sunday, Aug 25: Open Streets Franklin - Minneapolis**
- **Tuesday, Aug 27: AFL-CIO State Fair kiosk – Falcon Heights**
- **Wednesday, Aug 28: AFL-CIO State Fair kiosk – Falcon Heights**
- **Saturday, Aug 31: Bayfront Pride Festival – Duluth**
- **Saturday, Sept. 7: Mankato Pridefest – Mankato**
- **Sunday, Sept 8: Open Streets UMN - Minneapolis**
- **Saturday, Sept 14: Open Streets West Broadway - Minneapolis**
- **Saturday, Sept 21: St. Cloud Pride – St. Cloud**
- **Sunday, Sept 22: Open Streets Nicollet – Minneapolis**

To sign up to volunteer, email communications@afscmemn.org.

Local 638 (Sodexo) Ratifies Contract

Local 638 (Sodexo) voted to ratify a three-year contract that includes big wins for their members.

Highlights include a raise every year – by 2 percent in 2019, 2.5 percent in 2020 and 2.75 percent in 2021, plus an increase of \$0.75 - \$1.50 in starting wages for all classifications. The workers also won 15 minutes for New Member Orientation for new hires and an added Lead Employee Premium of \$1 into the contract.

In addition, members won meet and confer language for any changes that may occur as Sodexo transitions to new software. This will ensure that the union is involved if the changes impact vacation, sick, or holiday time.

Congratulations on your wins, family!

Local 66 ISD 704 Bus Drivers Reach Tentative Agreement

Local 66 ISD 704 Bus Drivers reached a two-year agreement that includes a \$0.60 raise in the first year and \$0.65 in the second. The agreement also allows additional hours within the school district to bus drivers who want to work in food or custodial services.

In addition, the new contract increases personal leave days from three to five, an additional \$100 employer 403B contribution, improvements in language regarding transparency in tip distribution and posting of job vacancies, plus language that specifically includes bus drivers in the district's upcoming strategic planning initiative.

Congratulations, family!

U of M Locals Host Member Appreciation Ice Cream Socials

Summer is a perfect time for ice cream, sunshine, and worker solidarity. That's why University of Minnesota AFSCME Locals 3800, 3260 and 3937 joined together to host their 7th annual Member Appreciation Ice Cream Social.

Union leaders set up a big tent, lawn games, a trivia wheel, and a raffle booth – plus gallons of ice cream – at student centers on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Campuses.

Organizers used the opportunity to build support for their contract campaign objectives. They shared the latest updates from the negotiating table and encouraged members to sign a petition for a fair contract.

By creating spaces for members to get together, they're helping members get to know one another - not just coworkers, but as a labor family.



Volunteers serve ice cream to University of Minnesota members at Coffman Student Union in Minneapolis.



Families enjoy food and face painting at the AFSCME Family Picnic.

AFSCME Hosts Annual Family Picnic

Over the weekend, AFSCME Council 5 hosted its annual Family Summer Picnic. Hundreds of members joined together to celebrate another year of solidarity - in fact, the turnout this year was one of the biggest crowds we've ever seen.

Picnic organizers kept the focus on union families. They made sure there were lots of activities to keep kids happy and entertained while their parents mingled with fellow members. A yearly favorite - the face painting station - returned, with kids lined up around the pavilion to get their colorful painted masks. Waterpark tickets were a new addition to the picnic this year. The first 100 kids who arrived to the picnic got free tickets, much to their excitement – and the excitement of their parents.

The annual Family Picnic is always a great opportunity for our endorsed candidates and elected officials to get to know AFSCME members. This year, elected leaders from all levels of government stopped by the picnic, including State Sen. John Hoffman, Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, St Paul School Board members Zuki Ellis and Jeannie Foster. AFSCME members also met two endorsed candidates for St Paul City Council – Liz De La Torre, a union sister running in Ward 1, and Nelsie Yang, running in Ward 6.

We're so grateful for all the volunteers who made this year's picnic one of the largest ever. The AFSCME Family Picnic depends on member organizers and funders – and it's never too early to start building for next year. Want to get involved? Email Duane Gatzke at kkirk77dg@comcast.net or 651-472-2787.



Get in on the Action

Action Update comes out every two weeks for locals and activists. Download a copy at afscmemn.org. Email communications@afscmemn.org with news and events you'd like shared in our next update.

Mark Your Calendars

Event	Date	Place/details
Financial Responsibility Training	September 26, 2019	Duluth AFSCME Office (211 W. 2nd Street)
AFSCME Council 5 Convention 2019	October 3 - 5, 2019	DECC (350 Harbor Drive, Duluth)